

than 50 million people—50 million—in Iraq and Afghanistan now live in freedom. And across the broader Middle East, many are claiming their liberty as well. By spreading freedom in a troubled region, we’re making this country more secure. We’re laying the foundation of peace for generations to come. I believe that freedom is not America’s gift to the world; it is the Almighty God’s gift to each man and woman in this world.

I believe that human rights are not determined by race or nationality or diminished by distance. As Americans are moved to action—we are moved to action when we see millions in Africa who are facing famine or dying of malaria or the AIDS pandemic. Last year, the United States of America provided nearly 60 percent of the global food aid to the continent of Africa. We’re supporting an aggressive campaign to cut the mortality rate of malaria in half.

We’re taking the lead when it comes to compassion around the world. And since 2003, the United States of America has led the world. We’ve undertaken an historic initiative to help the nations of Africa combat HIV/AIDS. So far, thanks to the leadership of a former Hoosier, Randy Tobias, we have delivered lifesaving treatment to more than 230,000 people on the continent of Africa, and there’s more work to be done.

We seek progress in Africa because our conscience demands it and because we have an interest in the long-term stability of the continent. Instability and lawlessness in any distant country can bring danger to our own shores. That’s the lesson that we’re learning in the 21st century. The United States of America will help Africa’s leaders bring democracy and prosperity and hope, and this will bring security to our country and peace to the world.

Today, we live in the most hopeful time in human history. These are exciting times. The hope of liberty is spreading across the world. Just watch what’s happening. And the hope and opportunity is spreading across our country as well. We will continue to work for the day when the blessings of freedom reach everybody who lives in this country.

The reason I’ve come today is because your work shows the dignity and equality and potential of every person. I’m here to herald

the good works of good people of good heart. You’ve inspired Americans with your commitment to serve us in education and opportunity. You’re helping to unite people of all races. I’m proud of your work. May God continue to bless your families, and may God continue to bless our great Nation.

Thanks for letting me come.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:51 a.m. at the RCA Dome. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mitch Daniels of Indiana and his wife, Cheri; Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman of Indiana; Arvis Dawson, chairman of the board of directors, Joyce Rogers, chief executive officer and president, and James C. Cummings, co-founder and former president, Indiana Black Expo, Inc.; Quinn Buckner, vice president of communications, National Basketball Association’s Indiana Pacers; and Joseph D. Farris, pastor, Zion Tabernacle Apostolic Faith Church.

Memorandum on Waiver of Restrictions on Providing Funds to the Palestinian Authority

July 14, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005–29

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver of Restrictions on Providing Funds to the Palestinian Authority

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 550(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2005 (Div. D, Public Law 108–447) (the “Act”), I hereby certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 550(a) of the Act, in order to provide funds appropriated to carry out chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to the Ministry of Finance of the Palestinian Authority in direct assistance for use on new projects in Gaza.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress, accompanied by a report in accordance with

section 550(d) of the Act, and to publish the determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendment for the Department of Veterans Affairs

July 14, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker:

My Administration is committed to ensuring that our Nation's veterans continue to receive timely and high-quality health care. To this end, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed \$1.977 billion FY 2006 budget amendment for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). I am requesting these resources to cover the expected increased costs in FY 2006 that VA will experience in its medical care budget.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Reform of the Palestinian Security Services and Palestinian Authority

July 14, 2005

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 2106 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (Public Law 109-13), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, I herewith submit the enclosed report prepared by my Administration providing information on matters relating to the Palestinian Security Services and Palestinian Authority reform.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 14, 2005.

Remarks on Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement in Dallas, North Carolina

July 15, 2005

Thank you. Please be seated. Thanks for the warm welcome. It's great to be back in North Carolina. It's always good to get outside the beltway and into NASCAR country. [Laughter]

Laura called me—she was in Africa for the past week. She called me. She's fixing to arrive in Washington this evening, but yesterday she said, "Where are you going on Friday?" I said, "I'm going to North Carolina." I said, "I'll be down there in that area where the Lowe's Motor Speedway is." She said, "Don't get any ideas." [Laughter] "You're having enough trouble staying on your mountain bike." [Laughter] She sends her very best to you all. She's doing great. I'm a lucky man when she said yes, when I asked her to marry me.

I appreciate the chance to stand with some of the finest workers in America, the men and women of Stowe Mills. I appreciate you all being here. And I thank you for giving me the chance to come and discuss an important topic, and that is, how do we make sure our job creation continues. And one way to do so is to make sure the trade we have is fair trade. That's what I'm here to talk about. I'm here to talk about making sure that people treat us the way we treat them. I want to talk to you about what they call CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

CAFTA is important for job creation. It's important for your jobs. CAFTA is important to help secure the democracies in our own neighborhood. And so, for the sake of our economic security and for the sake of national security, the United States House of Representatives should follow the lead of the United States Senate and pass CAFTA and get that bill to my desk.

I appreciate our Secretary of Commerce, Carlos Gutierrez, flying with me today. You know, I love America. I love the fact that people—a person like Carlos, born in Cuba, worked hard all his life, was able to succeed and is now sitting in the Cabinet with the